

Message Text

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61

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, XF, CA

SUBJECT: DEFENCE MINISTER RICHARDSON REPORTS ON MIDDLE EAST TRIP

1. RICHARDSON REPORTED TO COMMONS NOVEMBER 13 ON HIS INSPECTION OF CANADIAN FORCES IN UNEF, UNDOF, AND UNFICYP. HE MENTIONED THE HIGH MORALE OF CANADIAN PERSONNEL AND HIGH PRAISE FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE BY CYPRIOT, EGYPTIAN SYRIAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS. HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF "SATISFIED" THAT LOSS OF UN BUFFALO AIRCRAFT IN SYRIA WAS AN "ACCIDENT" AND "NOT AN AGGRESSIVE ACT DIRECTED AGAINST THE UN, "AND SAID FLIGHTS HAD BEEN RENEWED.

2. OPPOSITION CRITICIZED THE REPORT, CALLING IT "MOTHERHOOD STATEMENT." CONSERVATIVE DEFENSE CRITIC FORESTALL NOTED RICHARDSON MADE NO MENTION OF WHETHER CANADIAN FORCES COULD FULFILL MANDATE; WHETHER TROOPS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FOR UNFICYP; OR PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY CALLED UN FINANCING AND BACKUP SUPPORT OF PEACEKEEPING.

PORTER

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